

I encourage you to reject the National Association of Broadcasters' petition 04-160 in the name of fair competition and our first amendment rights. The services offered by satellite radio companies are just another new technology that permits our nation to enjoy our first amendment freedoms. Traffic and weather reports are information that many of our citizens find useful, even rely upon, on a daily basis. Where our citizens obtain this information is their choice and theirs alone. It should not be limited to sources that are deemed appropriate by a small, but influential segment of our population. Satellite radio, just like other sources of this information, compete under the regulations set forth by the FCC on content. As long as these conditions are met, why should there not be new means by which to obtain this information. What technologies survive should be determined by the marketplace and not by an influential few through the political system. If we had applied NAB's approach to this issue to the typewritten word, then I likely would have written this note on paper using a carbon-ribboned typewriter. The message would be the same only the means of constructing and sending it would be different, much like the information in question today.